

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 27, wherein the plug has a prismatic shape.

14-16. (Canceled)

17. (Withdrawn) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 27, wherein the plug has an open side in the form of a triangular profiled trough, the generally triangular cross-sectional shape being maintained by said internal support formed by said mesh material.

18-19. (Canceled)

20. (Withdrawn) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 28, wherein the webs are an integral part of the mesh configured by folding.

21. (Withdrawn) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 27, wherein three elongate sub-units are connected to form the prosthesis, said sub-units being of a triangular profile.

22. (Withdrawn) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 27, wherein the external wall mesh material is pleated circumferentially to provide a degree of flexibility and compressibility, to facilitate placement into a defect comprising a hernia.

23. (Previously Presented) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 27, wherein the plug is cut to an appropriate required dimension from a stock length piece.

24. (Withdrawn) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 27, wherein the plug is formed by a plurality of individual units connected in a longitudinal side-by-side relationship.

25. (Previously Presented) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 27, wherein the mesh material comprises polypropylene.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) An implantable prosthesis for the repair of muscle wall defects, the prosthesis comprising a flexible plug of a surgically compatible mesh material, the plug having an elongate form and comprising an external mesh material wall;

wherein:

the external mesh material wall has three outwardly projecting longitudinal ridges or bulges which provide the plug overall with a closed generally triangular cross-sectional shape; and

the plug further comprises an internal support extending into contact with respective interiors of at least outermost portions of the outwardly projecting longitudinal ridges or bulges, the internal support extending linearly along the interior of at least a substantial portion of the external mesh material wall between at least two apices of the generally triangular cross-sectional shape and being sufficiently rigid to maintain the size and shape of the external mesh material wall.

28. (Previously Presented) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 27, wherein the internal support comprises longitudinal webs internally of the external mesh material wall.

29. (Withdrawn) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 28, wherein the webs are an integral part of the mesh material configured by folding.

30. (Previously Presented) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 28, wherein the webs are formed by separate parts bonded to an inner surface of the external mesh material wall.

31. (Withdrawn) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 24, wherein said units individually have a prismatic profile.

32. (Withdrawn) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 27, wherein the external mesh material wall is pleated longitudinally to provide a degree of flexibility and compressibility, to facilitate placement into a defect comprising a hernia.

33. (Previously Presented) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 23, wherein the mesh material includes at least one joint, said joint being achieved by heat sealing.

34. (Currently Amended) An implantable prosthesis ~~in accordance with claim 27, for the repair of muscle wall defects, the prosthesis comprising a flexible plug of a surgically compatible mesh material, the plug having an elongate form and comprising an external mesh material wall;~~

wherein:

the external mesh material wall has three outwardly projecting longitudinal ridges or bulges which provide the plug overall with a closed generally triangular cross-sectional shape;
and

the plug further comprises an internal support extending into contact with respective interiors of at least outermost portions of the outwardly projecting longitudinal ridges or bulges, the internal support being sufficiently rigid to maintain the size and shape of the external mesh

material wall, wherein the internal support comprises a pair of L-shaped supports positioned back to back and extending into the outwardly projecting longitudinal ridges or bulges.

35. (Previously Presented) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 27, wherein the external mesh material wall comprises means for stiffening the prosthesis.